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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 24, 2007. Claims 1-10 were pending. By this Amendment, claim 5 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 5 as originally filed, claim 8 has been amended by rewriting it in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, claim 4 has been amended to correct the informality therein, 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and new claims 11 and 12 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 7-12 are now pending, with claims 1 and 8 being in independent form.

Claim 4 was objected to as having informalities. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Okawa et al. (JP2000-141704). Claims 3, 4, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Okawa. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Okawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,075,069 to Takemoto.

In addition, the Office Action also indicated that claims 5, 6 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 5 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 1 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 5, and claim 8 has been amended by rewriting it in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 8 are now allowable.

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 depend from claim 1 and therefore are submitted to be

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allowable as well. Likewise, new claims 11 and 12 depend from claim 8 and therefore are submitted to be allowable.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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